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Message Text

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60
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 /067 W
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R 131006Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4650

NEW DELHI FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, NP
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. SUMMARY: IN THE LAST YEAR, THE MISSION HAS CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON MAKING THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT AWARE OF THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROCEDURES AND THE ENACTMENT OF NARCOTICS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THE JURIDICAL BASE NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT. IN FOLLOWING THIS COURSE OF ACTION THE EMBASSY HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE UN, URGING IT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING THE GON TO TAKE THE NECESSARY LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. WHILE THE LEGISLATION HAS YET TO PASS, SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CONTROLLING TRAFFICKING AND PRODUCTION AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE COURSE OF 1975. END SUMMARY

2. IN THE PAST YEAR THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF EVERY APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO RAISE THE NARCOTICS ISSUE WITH HMG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER RIJAL AND KING BIRENDRA. AS RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS AND THOSE OF THE UN, WE BELIEVE THE GON IS MUCH
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MORE AWARE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NARCOTICS

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FIELD, AND HAS ALSO BEGUN TO SEE NARCOTICS AS A NEPALESE PROBLEM
AS WELL. THE GON IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY EXVCTS NEPAL TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE THE
FLOW OF NARCOTICS INTO FOREIGN MARKETS.

3. THAT WE AND THE UN HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA IS
EVIDENCED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A NARCOTICS CONTROL BILL, AND
THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE GON IN OBTAINING OUR ASSISTANCE
IN TRAINING ITS OFFICIALS IN EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROCEDURES.
A NARCOTICS BILL, WHICH WAS BASED ON A UN DRAFT, WAS INTRODUCED
IN THE SUMMER SESSION OF NEPAL'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT WAS NOT
PASSED DUE TO OPPOSITION FROM FARMERS FOR WHOM CANNABIS REPRESENTED
AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INCOME. WHILE THE DRAFT BILL DOES CONTAIN
SOME LOOPHOLES, ITS EMPHASIS IS UPON PREVENTION OF
TRAFFICKING AND SHOULD PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR FUTURE ENFORCEMENT.
WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE GON INTENDS TO REINTRODUCE THE BILL,
PERHAPS AFTER SOME REDRAFTING, IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.
THE CHANCES FOR ITS PASSAGE WILL DPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE
GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO CONCERNS OVER THE ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF THE LEGISLATION ON POOR FARMERS. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW STUDYING
MEANS OF MITIGATING THIS IMPACT. THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
IN ITSELF REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE STEP FORWARD
AS IT PUTS THE GON PUBLICLY ON RECORD AS BEING CONCERNED ABOUT
THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. IT HAS FORCED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND
POLITICIANS TO FOCUS ON NARCOTICS AS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE.
GIVEN THE FACT THAT LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO NEPAL WAS A
MECCA FOR DRUG SEEKERS AND THAT NOW CONSUMPTION, TRAFFICKING AND
PRODUCTION ARE UNDER INCREASING RESTRAINT, IT IS EVIDENT
THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS.

4. THE GON'S AWARENESS THAT EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT DEPENDS ON
ENHANCING THE CAPABILITIES OF ITS OFFICIALS IS A FURTHER SIGN
OF PROGRESS. WITHIN THE LAST YEAR THE GON HAS SENT FOUR POLICE
OFFICERS TO THE U.S. FOR NARCOTICS RELATED TRAINING, AND HAS
ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO SEND ADDITIONAL OFFICERS IN FY 1975.
THE GON CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT IT IS
INTERESTED IN INVITING A CCINC CUSTOMS TEAM TO COME TO NEPAL
TO CONDUCT TWO COURSES, WITH EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICSNPINTERDICTION.
A SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAS INDICATED TO US THAT NEPAL WAS
SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPUTATION IT HAD GAINED AS A
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"CENTER FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING" AND SAID THERE WAS A GROWING
FEAR NEPAL WAS BEING USED AS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR OTHER DRUGS.
GIVEN THE LONG LAND BORDER SHARED WITH CHINA AND INDIA, NEPAL IS
FACED WITH AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK OF INTERCEPTION OF
CONTRABAND.

5. IN ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THE GON'S AWARENESS OF THE NARCOTICS
PROBLEM, AND IN PROVIDING TRAINING RELATED TO NARCOTICS CONTROL,

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THE U.S. IS FOLLOWING A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH SHOULD BEAR FRUIT IN YEARS TO COME. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. NOT GET TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT, AND WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ENCOURAGED THE UN TO BE THE FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTION TO SOME SECTORS OF THE NEPALESE ECONOMY, WE SHALL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID ADOPTING HEAVY HANDED TACTICS WHICH MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE GIVEN THE GON'S SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN PRESSURE. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE UN'S EFFORTS, AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE UN AS NECESSARY. ON A BILATERAL BASIS WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE NEPALESE IN ENHANCING THEIR TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES THROUGH THE OFFER OF TRAINING. IN THIS AREA, TOO, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE CLEAR TO THE GON THAT OUR TRAINING IS OFFERED FOR SPECIFIC NARCOTICS CONTROL PURPOSES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A US COMMITMENT TO TRAIN THE POLICE IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS INTERNAL SECURITY OR POLITICAL INVESTIGATION.
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